

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 78-1944/aa

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Legislative Counsel

10 OCT 1978

Honorable Birch Bayh, Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I need not impress on you the need to protect sensitive compartmented intelligence which is so vital to our Nation's intelligence collection efforts. The Director of Central Intelligence became seriously concerned by the increasing numbers of persons granted access to compartmented intelligence and initiated a review within the Executive Branch to critically assess the basis for the granting of such access. The Director has extended this review to the Legislative Branch and issued Guidelines establishing my office as the Community focal point to oversee the issuance of compartmented clearances for the Congress, the General Accounting Office and the Library of Congress.

My office is in contact with the Staff Directors of those Committees and Subcommittees of Congress involved in sensitive compartmented intelligence to review existing compartmented clearances for staff members and to establish procedures for the issuance of future clearances. We are representing all Community agencies which sponsor the issuance of SI, TK and [redacted] clearances for the Legislative Branch. I assure you that this program is not intended in any way to impair the work of the Congress which requires access to sensitive intelligence. Our only concern, is that there be a clearly established need for such access.

STAT
STAT Under present procedures, all staff members on your Committee have been granted SI, TK and [redacted] clearances. The need for such clearances by all staff members has been shown to be warranted. Accordingly, we will continue under the present arrangements unless you inform me to the contrary. Enclosed is a copy of the Director's letter to the President of the Senate informing him of the program. A similar letter was sent to the Speaker.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Frederick P. Hitz

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Enclosure OLC 78-1944/aa

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1 - OLC Subject w/encl 1 - OLC Chron w/o/encl
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